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Willian, Ruth (Whitlow), 1886-1962 (MSS 243)

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BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Mildred Ruth Whitlow was born in 1886 near the Oakland community in Warren County, Kentucky. Her parents were Alpheus and Elizabeth (Cole) Whitlow. She attended Western Kentucky State Normal and by 1910 was a school teacher in Buffalo, Larue County, Kentucky. There she met her future husband, John Edward Bruce Willian, a cashier with the Buffalo Savings Bank and a widower with four children. The 24 year old Ruth and the 52 year old Willian married in the fall of 1910. After his death in 1922 she married John Alex Bratton and lived the rest of her life in Warren County near Smiths Grove. Ruth died 28 July 1962. She is buried next to her second husband in the Smiths Grove Cemetery.

COLLECTION

This collection consists chiefly of letters written to Ruth (Whitlow) Willian from 1905 to 1920. The majority of the letters are lengthy 1910 courtship letters from her suitor, John Edward Bruce Willian, later her husband. His letter-writing, now focusing on their domestic affairs, continues after their marriage, during the times they are apart. Several affectionate letters from Ruth to her husband also are included, specifically those written to him while he was in the hospital in Louisville in 1920. Other collection materials include a 1930s Valentine as well as letters to Nettie Settle; and birth, death, and marriage records from the Gunderman family Bible.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Folder 2</th>
<th>Correspondence between Ruth Whitlow and J.E.B. Willian</th>
<th>28 Feb. 1910-28 Dec. 1910</th>
<th>24 items</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Folder 3</td>
<td>Letters to Ruth (Whitlow) Willian, chiefly from her husband</td>
<td>1911-1920</td>
<td>24 items</td>
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<tr>
<td>Folder 4</td>
<td>Letters to Ruth (Whitlow) Willian from family and friends; letters from Ruth to her husband</td>
<td>1905-1909</td>
<td>17 items</td>
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<td>Folder 5</td>
<td>Gunderman family Bible pages</td>
<td>n.d.</td>
<td>2 items</td>
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<tr>
<td>Folder 6</td>
<td>Letters and Valentine to Nettie Settle</td>
<td>1934-1938</td>
<td>5 items</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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**BIBLIOGRAPHIC RECORD**

MSS WILLIAN, Ruth (Whitlow), 1905-1938
243 1886-1962

Chiefly letters to Ruth from John Edwin Bruce Willian, both before and after their 1910 marriage.
½ box. 6 folders. 73 items
1991.97.1 K/19

**SUBJECT ANALYTICS**

Courtship, 1910 F2
Genealogy – Gunderman family F5
Letterheads – Larue County – Buffalo Savings Bank F2-3
Marriage – Letters, 1911-1920 F3, 4
Settle, Nettie – Letters to F6
Shobe, Mrs. E. A. – Relating to F4
Valentines, [1930s] F6
Whitlow, Alpheus, 1834-1909 – Relating to F4
Whitlow, Elizabeth (Cole), 1841-1928 F3-4
Willian, John Edwin Bruce, 1858-1922 – Correspondence, 1910-1920 F2-4
Willian, Ruby – Relating to F3, 4
Willian, Ruth (Whitlow), 1886-1962 – Correspondence, 1910-1920 F2-4
SEE CARD

Willian, Mildred Ruth (Whitlow)
   See:
      Willian, Ruth (Whitlow)

Bratton, Ruth (Whitlow)
   See:
      Willian, Ruth (Whitlow)